

was a man of great ingenuity, integrity, and offered leadership to the NAACP in a time when the organization needed him most.

Aside from his service to the NAACP, Shinhoster served as the Ghana Field Director with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs of Washington, D.C. He helped to implement the Institute's election observation process with the 1966 elections of Ghana's president and parliament. He was also instrumental in election monitoring in Nigeria and South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Americans he benefited during his lifetime of service, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a man who devoted his entire life to the cause of civil rights and the NAACP. Earl T. Shinhoster will be sadly missed, but his legacy will not be forgotten.

FLAG DAY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our nation's flag. June 14th marks Flag Day, and the 223rd birthday of "Old Glory." The flag symbolizes our national unity, our national endeavors, and our national aspiration. There is no better symbol of our country's values and traditions than the Flag of the United States of America. Our flag's proud Stars and Stripes have long inspired our people, and its beautiful red, white, and blue design is known around the world as a beacon of liberty and justice.

Flag Day—the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777—was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

The stars and stripes on the flag represent more than just the original colonies and the number of states in this nation; they represent freedom and independence for Americans. In times of war, young soldiers have died to ensure it will continue to stand for a symbol of freedom. They rush to the front of the battle line to keep it waving strongly above the heads of their fellow soldiers. Our brave Armed Forces members carry "Old Glory" with them as they fulfill their mission to defend the blessings of democracy and peace across the globe; our banner flies from public buildings as a sign of our national community; and its folds drape the tombs of our distinguished dead. The Flag is a badge of honor to all—a sign of our citizens' common purpose.

The next time we rise to pledge our allegiance to our flag, let us also be reminded of our duty as citizens to keep this nation one, where liberty and justice can be enjoyed by all.

RULE OF LAW DETERIORATING IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Newsroom.org reported on June 6 that a group of human rights and religious freedom activists in India issued a written statement saying that political leaders have failed to guarantee the rule of law for religious minorities. This is significant, Mr. Speaker, because these are Indians saying this. The statement follows a similar one from the All-India Christian Council (AICC). The AICC said that it "holds the government responsible for the lack of safety of Christians in various parts of India."

The recent statement was signed by Hasan Mansur, head of the Karnataka unit of the People's Union for Civil Liberties; Ruth Manorama of the National Alliance of Women's Organizations; Sister Dolores Rego, who represents 10,000 Catholic nuns in India; and H. Hanumanthappa, former chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, among others.

The statement said that the Indian government is "incapable of guaranteeing the rule of law for protecting the right to life and security of peace-loving citizens" and "has become so anarchic as to have derailed democracy." Indian human rights activists are saying that there is effectively no democracy in India.

There have been several recent incidents. Just within the past few days a priest was murdered and five churches were bombed. A group of Christians was savagely beaten while distributing religious literature and Bibles. These are just the latest incidents of violence against Christians, a reign of terror that has been going on since Christmas 1998. In March, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs while President Clinton was visiting India. Remember that these Indian human rights leaders hold the government responsible for all these incidents. They were carried out by militant Hindu nationalists under the umbrella of the RSS, the parent organization of the BJP, the political party that rules India.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to the Politics of Genocide by Inderjit Singh Jaijee of the Movement Against State Repression. And why does a democracy need a Movement Against State Repression? India has also killed more than 20,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of Dalits, Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. It is holding about 50,000 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial, as well as thousands of others.

It offends me that our government continues to funnel aid to a government that has such a complete disregard for basic human rights. We should immediately cut off American aid to India until everyone there enjoys the liberties that we expect from democratic states. India should be declared a terrorist state. And we should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom. That is what we can do to ensure freedom and the rule of law in the troubled South Asian subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Newsroom Article of June 6 into the RECORD.

INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CHASTISE POLITICIANS FOR DETERIORATING RULE OF LAW

DELHI, India, 6 June 2000 (Newsroom)—Prominent Indian advocates of human rights and religious freedom accused political leaders in a written statement of failing to guarantee the rule of law for social and religious minorities and appealed to the government to uphold the rule of law and India's constitutional democracy.

The All India Christian Council last week had issued a similar statement expressing concern "about the unabated violence against Christians" taking place in the state of Gujarat and elsewhere. The council said it "holds the central government responsible for the lack of safety of Christians in various parts of India."

Among the signatories of last month's statement were Hasan Mansur, a Muslim intellectual who also heads the Karnataka unit of the People's Union of Civil Liberties, a well-known civil rights group; Ruth Manorama of the National Alliance for Women's Organizations; Sister Dolores Rego, who represents 10,000 Catholic nuns in India; and H. Hanumanthappa, former chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Indians are "deeply disturbed about the virulent, premeditated, and recurrent attacks on persons and institutions of the social, cultural, and religious minority communities being carried out in recent months by the Sangh Parivar (various Hindu groups) in different parts of the country," the advocates said. "The unending spate of propaganda unleashed against these communities is a matter of grave concern to us. We are very much distressed about the dubious manner in which the political leaders at the helm of affairs in this country today have been responding to such methodically orchestrated malicious behavior of these communal outfits."

Government at the national and state levels is so disorganized that it is "incapable of guaranteeing the rule of law for protecting the right to life and security of peace-loving citizens." It "has become so anarchic as to have derailed democracy that was built up very assiduously during the past 50 years," the group charged.

The statement comes amid continuing attacks against Christians and Muslims, as well as Dalits, the lowest group in India's caste system. Dalits typically perform the most menial tasks in Indian society and are shunned by members of upper castes.

The rights advocates expressed their shock at recent attacks on Christians and members of the so-called "untouchable" community in India. They took particular note of the murders of seven Dalits who were burned to death by members of the dominant castes in Kambalapalli village in the south Indian state of Karnataka on March 11. Eleven Dalits died in the same way last month in the north Indian state of Bihar.

"We are dismayed at the direction in which the nation is moving," the statement said: "... Social, cultural and religious minorities are the constant targets of these atrocious attacks. Recurrence of such assaults has become the order of the day. Inaction, or the lethargic response, to say the least, of the law-enforcing machinery is the maximum that the citizens are (acculturated) to expect from the governance system."

The Christian Council was especially critical of what it called "the whitewashing of communal incidents by the minority Commission" and apathy on the part of the Delhi